Would Rather and Had Better Worksheet

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
would rather + base verb (+ than)	I'd rather walk than take the bus.
would rather + someone + past simple	I'd rather you came tomorrow.
had better + base verb: strong advice / warning	You'd better leave now or you'll miss it.
Negatives: I'd rather not · You'd better not	I'd rather not talk about it. You'd better not be late.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
I'd rather to stay at home.	I'd rather stay at home.
You had better to call her.	You'd better call her.
I'd rather you don't tell anyone.	I'd rather you didn't tell anyone.

1. Complete

Complete with would rather or had better and the verb in brackets.

1. It's late. We _____ (go) home.
2. I _____ (watch) a film than go to a club.
3. You _____ (not / forget) your passport this time!
4. I _____ (not / talk) about my ex, if you don't mind.
5. She _____ (take) an umbrella. It's going to pour.
6. My boss _____ (we / start) at eight, but we prefer nine.
7. _____ you _____ (have) tea or coffee?
8. You _____ (see) a doctor about that cough.

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. I'd rather (stay / to stay) here.
2. You'd better (to hurry / hurry).
3. I'd rather you (paid / pay) by card.
4. We'd better (not / don't) make any noise.
5. I'd rather walk (than / that) drive.
6. She'd rather (not / not to) go.
7. You (had / would) better tell him the truth.
8. I'd rather (he didn't / he doesn't) know about this.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. I would rather to go by train.
2. You had better not to drive tonight.
3. I'd rather you don't call me at work.
4. We'd better leaving now.
5. I'd rather cook than going out.
6. You would better hurry up.

Writing

Write a message to a friend who is visiting your city (6 sentences). Give strong advice with had better and say what you would rather do together.

Speaking

- Would you rather live in the city or the countryside? Why?
- What had you better do before your next holiday?
- Is there a topic you'd rather not talk about with new people?
- Would you rather your boss or teacher gave you more freedom or more help?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 had better go · 2 would rather watch · 3 had better not forget · 4 would rather not talk · 5 had better take · 6 would rather we started · 7 Would … rather have · 8 had better see

2. Choose: 1 stay · 2 hurry · 3 paid · 4 not · 5 than · 6 not · 7 had · 8 he didn't

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 I would rather go by train. · 2 You had better not drive tonight. · 3 I'd rather you didn't call me at work. · 4 We'd better leave now. · 5 I'd rather cook than go out. · 6 You had better hurry up.

Writing, model answer: Hi Ana! I'm so happy you're coming. You'd better bring a warm jacket; it gets cold at night. You'd better not take a taxi from the airport, because they're very expensive. I'd rather meet you at the train station in the centre. On Saturday I'd rather go to the market than the shopping centre. And I'd rather you didn't book a hotel: you can stay with me!